

The Augusta Coin Club Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at the Sunrise Grill, 3830 Washington Rd. Martinez

The Augusta Coin Club since 1959

Pres. Steven Nix
1st V.P. Glenn Sanders
2nd V.P. Howard Black
Sec. John T. Attaway
Treas. Stacey Plooster
Sgt. in Arms: Bryan Hoyt
and Joe Bert



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Volume 18, Number 4

THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

April, 2018

Our Next Meeting is Thurs, April 19, at 7:00 PM, early arrivals, 6:00 PM

Show & Tells can widen club members' numismatic interests

Club Meeting Calendar for 2018

Jan. 18	May 17	Sep. 20
Feb. 15	June 21	Oct. 18
Mar. 15	July 19	Nov. 15
Apr. 19	Aug. 16	Dec. 20

Show & Tell, a Bedrock of an Active Numismatic Club

The size of a coin club is no indicator of serious numismatic interest. Our membership totals over 100 with an average of fifty attending at every meeting. Of this multitude we are lucky to have two members display a numismatic item a month, sometimes only one and when that individual is unable to attend, zero. Our sister club to the east, the Stephen James CSRA Coin Club of Aiken has a membership of around 40 tops with an on average attendance ranging from just sixteen persons to twenty-five, yet at least three to five members share portions of their collection at the Show & Tell session at virtually every meeting which also allows time for a program and auction. When there is no program, nine to ten members may bring in Show and tells relating the stories behind them.



A rare 1855-S Liberty Seated *no motto* 50¢ graded Fine-15 by NGC
[Enlarge image to fill monitor screen to view details,]

Not too long ago a SJ CSRA CC member displayed a low grade 1855-S Liberty Seated *with arrows* half-dollar. It had been acquired "raw" years earlier at a modest price. In 1854, the San Francisco Mint opened and struck its first half-dollars the following year. The mintage was only 129,950 and the coin circulated heavily. Today, that collector's example of the 1855-S half--similar to the one shown--is considered a great rarity. Perhaps there are number of ACC members with a similar experience. If so, let's share it.

Collecting Beautiful "Barbers"

By Arno Safran



An 1895 Barber Half-dollar certified MS-63 by PCGS
[Enlarge image to fill monitor screen to view details,]



Charles Barber

Charles Barber's legacy as Chief Mint Engraver, (1879-1917) has been a mixed bag of sorts. Due to the changing artistic tastes of his era, a younger generation of engravers along with critics of the period objected to his more conventional approach to coin design types featuring the allegorical figures of Miss Liberty and the eagle. Some have alleged Barber to have plagiarized George Morgan's obverse design on the silver dollar with his version of the Liberty nickel introduced in 1883. Lastly, as Chief Engraver, Barber could be extremely controlling, discouraging different artistic points of view simply by judging newly proposed designs non functional as coinage. While there is some truth to these epithets, the coinage Barber wrought has in more recent years become quite popular among today's collectors.

The example of the 1895-P Liberty Head half-dollar shown above is a case in point. While the type looks back to classical Grecian art, it is both well proportioned and functional as a design and can appear attractive in as low a grade as Fine-12. In 1895, the Philadelphia Mint produced 1,884,338 halves and they were particularly well struck, but the coin circulated heavily since it had the purchasing power of \$15.10. Nonetheless, it is considered a fairly common date with many survivors certified MS-63.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Collecting Beautiful “Barbers”

(Continued from the preceding page)



A 1903-O Barber Half graded MS-63 by NGC
[Enlarge image to fill monitor screen to view details,]

Not all Barber halves were blessed with full strikes. The New Orleans Mint was still active through 1909 and in 1903, struck 2.1 million Barber halves, second to the Philadelphia Mint’s output of 2,278,000, but far fewer survivors survive of the New Orleans output and for those that do, the 1893-O half dollar is nowhere as well struck as illustrated by the coin shown directly above. Despite these factors, the MS-63 example is still a pleasing coin to behold although more expensive than the 1895 issue shown on the preceding page.



The Low mintage 1914-P Barber Half-dollar graded MS-64 by PCGS
[Enlarge image to fill monitor screen to view details,]

The Barber Liberty-Head half dollar was struck in every year from 1892 thru 1915, twenty-four consecutive years. Between 1906, the year the Denver Mint opened thru 1909, there were actually four mints operating throughout the USA, Philadelphia, New Orleans, San Francisco and Denver. Before 1913, the most common dates and best struck Barber Halves were coined in Philadelphia but during the final three years of their run the Philadelphia Mint struck just 188,000 in 1913, a paltry 124,230 in 1914 and 138,000 in 1915, each lower than any of the branch mints which includes the elusive key date 1904-S although the three dates are nowhere as scarce in today’s numismatic marketplace..

The 1914 example specimen shown above is a gem of a coin for an MS-64 and a beautifully toned one at that. The writer has seen a number of certified naturally toned MS-66 to 67 uncirculated type coins on the internet that are not nearly as attractive due to extreme mottled toning yet these bring much higher prices at major auctions. The 1914 half is well struck and subtly toned without any noticeable distractions. While still an expensive coin in MS-64, what keeps the price lower for the date is that enough uncirculated pieces were saved by the wealthy in greater proportion to those used in daily commerce by the labor force. For collectors assembling a complete set averaging Fine-VF, the 1914 would be a greater challenge even though it would be priced well below the MS-64 example.



A 1901 Barber Quarter certified MS-64 by NGC
[Enlarge image to fill monitor screen to view details,]

If one wished to obtain an inexpensive uncirculated example of the Barber quarter, those struck at the Philadelphia Mint dated 1897 thru 1902 would be a good place to start because of the huge mintages recorded for those years. The 1901-P specimen shown above is well struck and wholly “original”

During its tenure, 1892-1916, the Barber Liberty Head quarter had the purchasing power of around \$7.10. Since many basic items were priced well below twenty-five cents during the period the coin was being struck, the coin type circulated heavily. As a result, choice circulated specimens from Fine thru AU were difficult to find out of circulation prior to the Coinage Act of 1965 and even more so today. Barber Quarters certified AU-58 thru MS-64 are more available to the serious collector albeit for a price because many were saved by the wealthy.



A toned 1906-D Barber quarter graded MS-62 by PCGS
[Enlarge image to fill monitor screen to view details,]

If one is ruling out three “stoppers”, the 1896-S, 1901-S and 1913-S and some of the other tougher dates such as the 1909-O and the 1911-D, you might want to include an example of a Denver Mint issue in your Barber quarter collection. In 1906, the Denver Mint began striking silver coins and produced 3,280,000 Barber quarters, almost as many as the Philadelphia Mint. The date is not a particularly expensive certified MS-62. The example shown has a touch of mottled toning along the left half of the obverse which may not suit the taste of some collectors who prefer “Blast white” specimens.



A 1913 Barber Quarter certified MS-62,
[Enlarge image to fill monitor screen to view details,]

The mintage of the 1913-P quarter was only 484,000 yet is more affordable than the five aforementioned key dates especially in MS-62 where it can still appear attractive. The coin shown has lovely subtle toning and is well struck.

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

Collecting Beautiful “Barbers”

(Continued from the preceding page)



An 1897 Barber dime graded MS-64 by PCGS

[Courtesy of Coast to Coast Coins]

[Enlarge image to fill monitor screen to view details,]

In 1897, the Philadelphia Mint struck 10,868,533 Barber dimes and like many of those issued from that facility the coin was extremely well struck. It is the writer's view that the Barber dime is one of the most under priced coins in today's numismatic market with coins as sharp as the one shown directly above listed at only \$190 in MS-64 on the current CDN wholesale Bid sheet. Even the current retail figure of \$260 seems low for such a quality example piece. As with the quarters, Barber dimes were struck from 1892 thru 1916. The 1894-S Proof is an extreme rarity but there are a few others such as both the 1895-O, and to a lesser extent, the 1895-P shown directly below that are rare.



The scarce 1895 Barber dime graded MS-64 by PCGS

[Courtesy of Coast to Coast Coins]

[Enlarge image to fill monitor screen to view details,]

1895 was a “tough” year for the dime denomination. Only 690,000 Barber dimes were struck at Philadelphia, 440,000 in New Orleans, one of the key dates of the entire series, and 1,120,000 in San Francisco, yet despite the largest mintage of the three, the date is even more expensive in comparative grades than the lower mintage Philadelphia Mint issue. The 1895 and 1897 were acquired off the internet after viewing superb digital pictures of the coins on the internet site of a respected numismatic firm located in the Baltimore, MD area as was the 1895 Barber half-dollar shown on page 1.



A 1904 Barber dime graded MS-65 by PCGS

[Enlarge image to fill monitor screen to view details,]

Of all the dates in the Barber Dime series (1892-1916), the writer found the 1904-P issue to be the most elusive to acquire grading anywhere from AU-58 thru MS-64, this despite the fact that it is listed as a common date with over 14 million struck. Proofs were all over the internet and at major shows but business strikes in the grade range sought were not to be seen. No 1904 dimes were coined in New Orleans that year while the San Francisco Mint struck just 800,000 and while the 1904-S is considered one of the keys to the series, it received more sightings across the internet than the 1904-P. Finally, a Gem MS-65 surfaced shown setting in the sunset above.



An 1883 Type 1 Liberty no cents nickel

A 1907 gold Liberty \$5.00

[Enlarge image to fill monitor screen to view details,]

When it comes to regular circulating coinage during the Charles Barber era, the five-cent nickel coin was the workhorse of economy. The Liberty nickel owes its popularity to the famous first year of issue, the 1883 *no cents* reverse shown above, perhaps one of our most common obsolete US type coins. For the average “Joe” or “Jane” living during that era, a gold plated Liberty *no cents* nickel might be mistaken for a legitimate \$5.00 gold coin. As a result, not long after a number of these scams were successfully used, the Mint replaced the type one with a type two reverse showing the **FIVE CENTS** placed under the V on the reverse of the new Liberty Head nickel.



A 1907 \$5.00 gold half-eagle graded MS-64 by PCGS

[Enlarge image to fill monitor screen to view details,]

With the exception of the 1885, 1886 and 1912-S issues, virtually all the Liberty Head “V” nickels dates are common and inexpensive grading as high as MS-64. Back in the 1990s AU0-55s to 58s were retailing at \$40 to \$45 with MS-63's were retailing at \$85 and 64s @ around \$120. Today one can acquire a certified MS-64 example for around \$200 or slightly more. Over the decades, the series has never been that popular with collectors but the fact that more proofs are being sold by dealers than ever more indicates that the mid range affordable certified uncs may be beginning to dry up.



A certified BU Barber Coin type Set

1895 50c, 1914, 25c, 1904 dime and 1896 “V” 5c

**AUGUSTA COIN CLUB, INC.
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 15, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Sunrise Grill by President, Steve Nix. We had 49 members and one guest present.

Secretary's Report:

The February 15, 2018 minutes was not read. A copy appears in each monthly newsletter and is also kept on file.

Treasurer Stacey Plooster reported a balance of \$13,543.12 deposited in the checking account. Expenses were from our Spring Coin Show.

Prize Winners:

Everitt Price won a 2018 Silver Eagle and Harry Millard won a 2018 American Silver Dollar. Winner of the 50/50 raffle was Glenn Sanders (\$60.00)

Spring Coin Show: May 18th (Friday) and May 19th (Saturday) 2018, David Chism - Bourse Chairman.

The Spring Coin Show will be held at the Columbia County Exhibition Center located at the Grovetown Wal-Mart at Exit 190. David reported 50 tables have been sold. There is room for 60 to 65 tables as we will use the larger room. Our club is looking for someone to take over the concession stand. We also need members to sign up for help at the concession stand and the welcoming desk. Members need to pass out flyers and sell raffle tickets at \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. David Chism and Steve Nix have lined up numerous adverting for our show in both major weekly hobby magazines, *Coin World* and *Numismatic News*, also in our local newspapers.

Our ANA YN of the year for 2017, Shelby Plooster will conduct a program for Ying Numismatists who attend the show on Saturday, May 19th starting at 12:00 noon. As of now we have 5 exhibits signed up for our show.

Show & Tells:

Alas, there were none!

The Program:

Club President Steve Nix gave a program featuring twelve possible Augusta, GA area sites for the 2018 ACC Medallion. The sites were:

1. The Bell Auditorium
2. Downtown Augusta Skyline (2017)
3. The Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art (1818)
4. The Imperial Theater (1918)
5. The James Oglethorpe Statue (2003) (1696-1785)
6. The Old First Baptist Church of Augusta (1903)
7. The Old Medical College of Augusta (1835)
8. Paine College (1920's)
9. The Planters Hotel
10. The Trinity Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (1890's)

11. The Augusta Amphitheater on the River walk overlooking the Savannah River

12. The Railroad Bridge crossing the Savannah River from Augusta, GA to North Augusta, SC from the lower end of the River-walk.

And the winner was: #7. **Old Medical College of Augusta** (built in 1835).

Old Business:

Reminder that the 2018 Club dues \$15.00 per year are due by April 1.. We had 3 juniors draw from the junior box of coins.

New Business:

1. The club is planning to go to the Georgia Numismatic Association's annual spring show located in Dalton, Georgia on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at a cost of \$10.00 a person. 8 members need to sign up or we might not be able to justify the trip.

2. President Steve tried out a new sound system from Center Stage Music.

Areas Shows:

Camden, SC March 17, 2018

Georgia GNA, Dalton, GA

April 13-15, 2018

Coin Auction:

Glenn Sanders ran the auction (17 lots). Shelby Plooster and others delivered the goods as the auction was carried on therefore speeding the auction up. Bids recorder was David Chism.

**Respectively Submitted,
John Thomas Attaway**

**SPRING
COIN SHOW
MAY 18 & 19 2018
AUGUSTA COIN CLUB**

FRIDAY 9AM - 5PM	SATURDAY 9AM - 5PM
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Drawing Saturday at 4:00
 Purchase tickets from club members or at registration
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FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:
www.augustacoinclub.org

Collectible 20 cent Pieces



An 1875-S 20 cent piece graded MS-62 by PCGS
[Enlarge image to fill monitor screen to view details,]

One of the oddest denominations created in US history was the 20 cent piece. It was conceived by Senator John P. Jones of Nevada who introduced a bill in congress in 1874 to strike a 20¢ coin which later became nicknamed a double-dime. This occurred one year after the *Coinage Act of 1873* that brought to an end the coining of the 3c silver trime, the half-dime--which was very popular in the far west--and the Lib. Std. silver dollar. That denomination was replaced by the Trade dollar for use in the orient.



Sen. John P. Jones

The bill was enacted and signed into law by President Grant in March, 1875. After a series of patterns, one that featured a beautiful obverse of "Liberty at the Seashore" by Chief Mint Engraver William Barber, Mint Director Henry R. Lindeman opted instead for the traditional Liberty Seated design that already appeared on the obverses of the other silver denominations. For the reverse of the new 20c coin, Lindeman chose Barber's reverse design on the Trade dollar. The coin was 22 mm in diameter compared with 24.3 mm for the quarter and struck with a plain edge instead of a reeded one. These decisions proved to be disastrous for any success the new design might have generated as the resemblance between the quarter and newly struck 20c coin were too close.



For those interested in collecting the 20c piece, the 1875-S with a mintage of 1,155,000 shown above is the least expensive. The second least costly--oddly enough--is the 1875-cc which had a reported mintage of 133,290 and is more collectible than the 1875-P Mint issue in which only 36,910 were coined. In 1876, the 20c piece was produced for circulation at Philadelphia with 14,640 struck and at Carson City with a reported 10,000 made but most of the Carson City output was melted and the 1876cc is a great rarity today. Below are images of the collectible 20c business strikes.



From l to r.: 1875-P, 1875 CC, 1875-S all certified MS-62 and the 1876-P certified MS 63 Proof-like
[Enlarge image to fill monitor screen to view details,]

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